

What is claimed is:

- Sub A2
1. A method for altering the lipid content of the skin of a mammal in need of such alteration comprising topically administering a ursolic acid compound to said skin in an amount effective to alter the lipid content of the epidermis of said skin.
 2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the skin of the mammal is skin that exhibits aging as a result of a reduction in the lipid content of its epidermal layer.
 3. The method of Claim 1 wherein the skin of the mammal is skin that exhibits photoaging as a result of a reduction in the lipid content of its epidermal layer.
 4. The method of Claim 1 wherein the skin of the mammal is skin that has atrophied as a result of a reduction in the lipid content of its epidermal layer.
 5. The method of Claim 4 wherein the reduction in the lipid content of the epidermal layer is a result of the application of at least one retinoid to the skin.
 6. The method of Claim 4 wherein the reduction in the lipid content of the epidermal layer is a result of the application of at least one steroid to the skin.
 - Sub A3 7. The method of Claim 1 wherein the skin of the mammal suffers from ichthyosis or ichthyosiform dermatoses.
 8. The method of Claim 1 wherein the skin of the mammal suffers from acne.
 - Sub A4 9. The method of Claim 1 wherein the mammal has the sensation of dry skin as a result of a reduction in the lipid content of the skin's epidermal layer.
 10. The method of Claim 1 wherein the ursolic acid compound is administered in a formulation and the concentration of the ursolic acid compound in that formulation is equal to or less than 30 micromolar.

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11. The method of Claim 1 wherein the ursolic acid compound is encapsulated in liposomes.

Sub 11.5 12. The method of Claim 11 wherein the ursolic acid compound is administered in a preparation that includes a water soluble preservative.

13. The method of Claim 12 wherein the water soluble preservative is potassium sorbate.

14. The method of Claim 1 wherein the ursolic acid compound is ursolic acid.

Sub 11.6 15. The method of Claim 1 wherein the content in the epidermal layer of the skin of at least one member of the ceramide lipid family is increased.

16. The method of Claim 1 wherein the free fatty acid content of the epidermal layer of the skin is increased.

17. The method of Claim 1 wherein the ursolic acid compound is administered in combination with at least one other active compound which is not a ursolic acid compound.

18. The method of Claim 17 wherein the at least one other active compound is a retinoid.

19. The method of Claim 17 wherein the at least one other active compound is a steroid.

20. The method of Claim 1 wherein the mammal is a human.

21. A method for treating skin of a mammal which exhibits aging as a result of a reduction in the lipid content of its epidermal layer comprising topically administering a ursolic acid compound to said skin in an amount effective to reduce the effects of aging exhibited by said skin.

22. A method for treating skin of a mammal which exhibits photoaging as a result of a reduction in the lipid content of its epidermal layer comprising topically administering a ursolic acid compound to said skin in an amount effective to reduce the effects of photoaging exhibited by said skin.

23. A method for treating skin of a mammal which is atrophied as a result of a reduction in the lipid content of its epidermal layer comprising topically administering a ursolic acid compound to said skin in an amount effective to reduce the atrophy of said skin.

24. The method of Claim 23 wherein the atrophied mammalian skin is a result of treatment with at least one retinoid.

25. The method of Claim 23 wherein the atrophied mammalian skin is a result of treatment with at least one steroid.

26. A method for treating skin of a mammal suffering from acne comprising topically administering a ursolic acid compound to said skin in an amount effective to reduce said acne.

27. A method for treating skin of a mammal suffering from ichthyosis or ichthyosiform dermatoses comprising topically administering a ursolic acid compound to said skin in an amount effective to reduce said ichthyosis or ichthyosiform dermatoses.

28. A method of treating a mammal suffering from the sensation of dry skin as a result of a reduction in the lipid content of its epidermal layer comprising topically administering a ursolic acid compound to skin of said mammal in an amount effective to reduce said sensation of dry skin.

Sub A7 29. A composition for topical administration to the skin of a mammal comprising (i) a ursolic acid compound encapsulated in liposomes and (ii) a medium suitable only for topical administration.

30. The composition of Claim 29 further comprising a water soluble preservative.

31. The composition of Claim 30 wherein the water soluble preservative is potassium sorbate.

32. The composition of Claim 29 wherein the concentration of the ursolic acid compound in the composition is equal to or less than 30 micromolar.

Sub A8 33. A composition for topical administration to the skin of a mammal comprising (i) a ursolic acid compound encapsulated in liposomes,

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(ii) at least one other therapeutically active topical compound which is not a ursolic acid compound, and (iii) a medium suitable for topical administration.

34. The composition of Claim 33 wherein the at least one other therapeutically active topical compound is a retinoid.

35. The composition of Claim 33 wherein the at least one other therapeutically active topical compound is a steroid.

36. The composition of Claim 33 further comprising a water soluble preservative.

37. The composition of Claim 36 wherein the water soluble preservative is potassium sorbate.

38. The composition of Claim 33 wherein the concentration of the ursolic acid compound in the composition is equal to or less than 30 micromolar.

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